

Higher Education Committee

Senator Tom O'Halleran, Chairman



Dawn Wallace, Research Analyst

Alisa Yasin, Intern

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

LEGISLATION ENACTED

task force; retraining disabled veterans (S.B. 1277) – Chapter 128

Establishes the seven-member Task Force for Retraining Disabled Military Veterans (Task Force) under the jurisdiction of the Arizona Board of Regents. Specifies the duties of the Task Force and requires the Task Force to submit an annual report by December 1 regarding its activities to the Governor and Legislature. The Task Force is repealed on September 30, 2018.

nursing programs; jurisdiction (NOW: exemption; nursing assistant programs) (S.B. 1431) – Chapter 211

SEE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

WICHE; continuation (H.B. 2075) – Chapter 141

Retroactive to July 1, 2008, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education is continued for ten years through July 1, 2018.

regents; officers; technical correction (NOW: budget reconciliation; education) (H.B. 2211) – Chapter 287 W/O

SEE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

college textbooks; information. (NOW: information; college textbooks) (H.B. 2230) – Chapter 146

Requires publishers of postsecondary course materials to disclose written information to public university and community college faculty members and staff, in accordance with the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) and community college district policies, that include: 1) a listing of all course materials offered and whether the material is offered in a bundled package or sold separately; 2) the suggested retail price and estimated wholesale price or the price that the publisher makes the materials available to the public; 3) the time period for which pricing is applicable; 4) copyright dates; and 5) substantive content differences between editions. By January 1, 2009, the public universities and community colleges must adopt policies to instruct faculty and staff to make information requests according to the publisher disclosure policy. The bill also prohibits university and community college faculty and staff from receiving any payments, loans, advances or goods for selecting or purchasing specific course materials with certain exceptions.

JTEDs; bonding (H.B. 2234) – Chapter 302

Expands Class B bonding authority to finance any facility at a campus owned or operated and maintained by a Joint Technological Education District (JTED), except that Class B bond proceeds may not be used for any JTED facility located on a school district campus unless the facility is used solely to provide career and technical education and is available to all pupils. If a facility is not owned by the JTED, the JTED must enter into an intergovernmental agreement for ten years or the bond term, whichever is greater, with specific conditions related to the usage of the facility and compensation to the JTED if the facility is no longer used for JTED purposes. School district square

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Cont'd.)

footage that is leased to a JTED may not be included for building renewal funding purposes and included in the new school construction formula.

early graduation scholarships; academic year (H.B. 2736) – Chapter 140

Replaces the current requirement that a student no longer in good academic standing must reimburse the Early Graduation Scholarship Program (Program) for any grant monies received no later than 36 months after the student's graduation date from high school, with a new requirement that the student must reimburse the Program for any unused grant monies received if the student does not complete the "academic year" as defined by federal law. The bill also modifies the reimbursement requirements to: 1) eliminate the submission of the cost of attendance invoice and promissory note; and 2) remove the ability of the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education to grant good cause exceptions.

LEGISLATION VETOED

postsecondary education programs; PEG; PFAP (S.B. 1012) – VETOED

Retroactive to July 1, 2008, continues the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education (ACPE) until July 1, 2018. The bill modifies the eligibility requirements for the Postsecondary Education Grant (PEG) and allows the ACPE to make good cause extensions for the time period in which a student who has received a PEG or Private Postsecondary Education Student Financial Assistance Program (PFAP) grant must obtain a baccalaureate degree.

In her veto message, the Governor indicates that a ten-year continuation period is too long for the ACPE, which is the subject of inquiry regarding its mission and membership. The Governor states that she would welcome a bill that incorporates all the changes in S.B. 1012, but with a one-year continuation of the ACPE.

prime contracting deduction; university improvements (S.B. 1484) – VETOED

Redirects, until January 1, 2014, prime contracting transaction privilege tax revenues associated with the construction of a public university building to the city or town in which the building is constructed to pay for up to 80 percent of infrastructure improvements related to building construction costs and associated improvements for the benefit of a public university.

The Governor states in her veto message that the bill is unfair as it only benefits cities that have state universities. She further states that other worthy organizations would be justified in requesting special tax treatment under this bill and that the state General Fund financial burden would limit the state's ability to fund its priorities.